AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) Method for the preparation of aqueous solutions of reactive chlorine compounds, comprising:

(a) reacting chlorine dioxide with an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide or another hydroperoxide or peroxide at a pH value of ≥ 6.5, to produce a gaseous free reactive chlorine compound and a dissolved reactive chlorine compound,

(b) lowering the pH value to 3 to 6 by adding an acid,

(c) expelling the gaseous free reactive chlorine compound with a cooled gas and collecting the dissolved chlorine compound in a basic solution with a pH value of >10, and

(d) incubating the collected dissolved reactive chlorine compound with up to 100-fold excess of chlorite at a pH value of 6 to 8.

2.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1 comprising collecting the free reactive chlorine compound by a cold trap.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1 comprising feeding the free reactive chlorine compound into an aqueous alkaline solution.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 12 wherein the alkaline ~~soluction~~ solution comprises a base selected from the group consisting of alkaline metals, alkaline-earth metals, zinc, nitrogen bases and hydroxides of quaternary ammonium salts.

14. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1 comprising stabilizing the solutions obtained from (d) by increasing the pH value.

15.- 24. (Canceled)